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NANCY JEAN SIEGEL INDICTED FOR MURDERING FRAUD VICTIM

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced the return today of a superseding indictment by a federal grand jury charging Nancy Jean Siegel, age 55, of Baltimore, Maryland with the murder of Jasper Frederick Watkins, in order to prevent disclosure to law enforcement officials of her use of Watkins' identity and personal financial information for her financial gain. The Superseding Indictment also alleges that from about 1982 to 2003, Siegel repeatedly used the identity and personal financial information of husbands, friends and acquaintances, including Watkins, in order to open or convert financial accounts for her own use.

According to the allegations of the Superseding Indictment, Siegel used the identity of Jack Watkins, an elderly resident of Reisterstown, Maryland, to obtain credit based upon false and fraudulent information, and induced Watkins to finance and sell his home to pay her credit account debts and/or give her the money, all before his death. The Superseding Indictment alleges that after Watkins' death, Siegel continued to divert and convert to her own use Watkins' Social Security

payments totaling approximately \$89,728 and retirement annuity payments belonging to Watkins totaling approximately \$10,078. Siegel also is alleged to have used his identity and financial information to open new financial accounts and divert and use existing accounts. The Superseding Indictment alleges that Siegel engaged in this scheme as to Watkins from about November, 1994 to 2003, much of it while Watkins' was dead and his body unidentified.

The Superseding Indictment alleges that Watkins' body was discovered on May 14, 1996 dumped near the trash at an access point to the Appalachian Trail in Loudoun County, Virginia. The body had been stuffed into two duffle bags and then into a large storage trunk before being discarded between the hours of 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on May 13, 1996. An autopsy revealed that Watkins had died of cervical compression, with corresponding abrasions and subcutaneous hemorrhages on the neck consistent with manual strangulation. The autopsy also revealed that there were a number of fresh cuts and abrasions on the body, as well as a blunt force injury to the back of the victim's head, which occurred sometime prior to his death. Further, toxicology analysis revealed that Watkins had toxic levels of medication with sedative effect in his system when killed.

Early attempts to identify the body failed, but detectives with the Loudoun County Sheriff's office persisted and were ultimately successful in identifying the body from military records in January of 2003. Their subsequent investigation revealed the diversion of the Social Security payments, and a joint investigation was launched between federal agents and the Loudoun County Sheriff's office which resulted in the Superseding Indictment issued today.

The initial Indictment in this case charged Siegel with nine counts of theft of government property, and two counts each of bank fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud and identity theft. In addition to the murder of Watkins, the Superseding Indictment filed today charges her with seven counts of theft of government property, seven counts of bank fraud, two counts each of identity theft, wire

fraud and mail fraud, and two counts of witness tampering for the murder of Watkins. Siegel faces a maximum prison term of between 5 to 20 years for the various fraud charges. The Superseding Indictment also includes a Notice of Special Findings which qualifies this case for the death penalty.

Siegel is currently being detained in federal custody.

United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio stated that “the charges resulting in the Superseding Indictment represent our commitment to protect victims of financial fraud.”

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

This case is being investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Department. The Federal Bureau of Investigation assisted earlier in the investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Tamera L. Fine and Christine Manuelian.